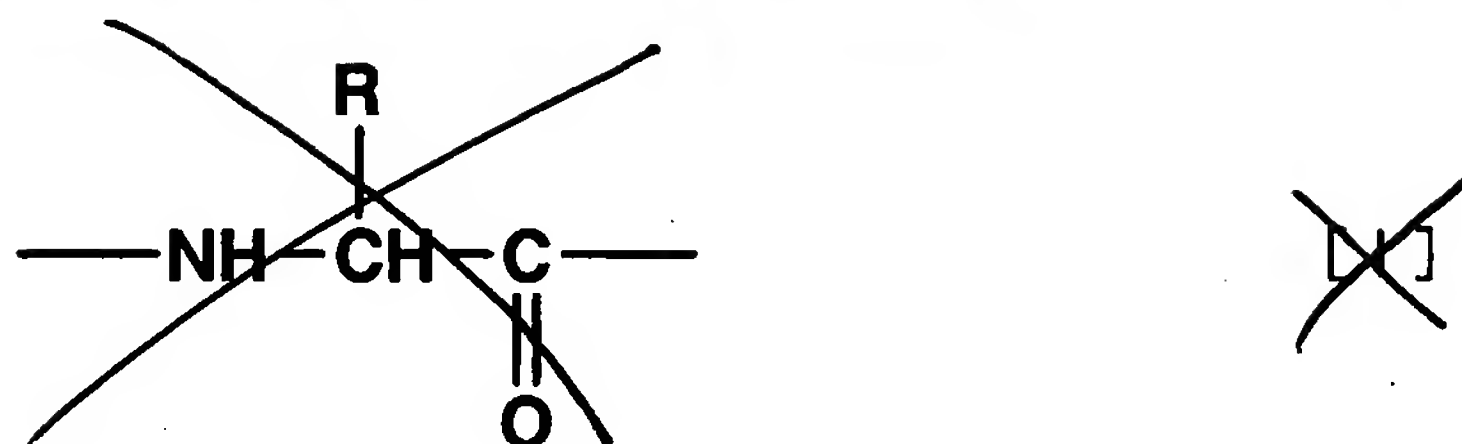


Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently amended) ~~Sustained-release~~ A sustained-release polymer for an amino acid derivative, wherein the polymer contains an acidic group ionically bonded to an amino acid derivative, the polymer is in the form of a fiber a fiber-shaped polymer, the polymer has a cross-linked structure formed by reaction of a nitrile group with a hydrazine compound selected from the group consisting of hydrazine hydrate, hydrazine sulfate, hydrazine hydrochloride, hydrazine hydrobromide, hydrazine carbonate, ethylenediamine, guanidine sulfate, guanidine hydrochloride, guanidine phosphate and melamine, and the amino acid derivative has the structure as shown by the following formula [I] in its molecule:



~~wherein R is a group having one or more basic functional group(s) is selected from the group consisting of fibroin, sericin, casein, collagen, gelatin, glycine, alanine, valine, leucine, isoleucine, methionine, proline, phenylalanine, tryptophan, serine, threonine, asparagine, glutamine, tyrosine, cysteine, lysine, arginine, histidine, aspartic acid and glutamic acid.~~

2. (Currently amended) The sustained-release polymer for an amino acid derivative according to claim 1, wherein eluting rate (α) of the amino acid derivative when the polymer is dipped in an artificial sweat liquid is 10% or more and is five times or more of the eluting rate (β) of the amino acid derivative when the polymer is dipped in pure water.

3-5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently amended) The sustained-release polymer for an amino acid derivative according to claim 1, wherein the amino acid derivative is at least one member selected from the group consisting of arginine, lysine and histidine.

7. (Currently amended) The sustained-release polymer for an amino acid derivative according to claim 1, wherein the polymer containing an acidic group has a saturated hygroscopic degree of 20% by weight or more under the condition of 20°C × 65% relative humidity.

8. (Currently amended) The sustained-release polymer for an amino acid derivative according to claim 1, wherein the polymer containing an acidic group has a carboxyl group.

9-14. (Cancelled)

15. (Withdrawn) A method for the manufacture of the sustained-release polymer for amino acid derivative mentioned in claim 1, characterized in that, a solution of amino acid derivative is added to a polymer containing acidic group and then the polymer is dried at 40 to 100°C.

16. (Withdrawn) A cosmetic containing the sustained-release polymer for amino acid derivative mentioned in claim 13.

17. (Withdrawn) A fiber structure containing the sustained-release polymer for amino acid derivative mentioned in claim 13.

18. (Withdrawn) The fiber structure according to claim 17, wherein the fiber structure is selected from underwear, stomach band, supporter, mask, gloves, socks, stockings, pajama, bathrobe, towel, mat and bedclothes.

19. (Withdrawn) A method for the manufacture of the fiber structure mentioned in claim 17, characterized in that, a solution of amino acid derivative is added to a material fiber structure which contains a polymer containing acidic group and then the fiber structure is dried at 40 to 100°C.

20. (Withdrawn) A method for regeneration of a sustained-release polymer for amino acid derivative, characterized in that, a solution of amino acid derivative is added to the sustained-release polymer for amino acid derivative mentioned in claim 1 in which amount of the amino acid derivative bonded thereto has lowered as a result of use and then the polymer or the fiber structure is dried.

21. (Withdrawn) A fiber structure containing the sustained-release polymer for amino acid derivative mentioned in claim 14.

22. (Withdrawn) A method for regeneration of a sustained-release polymer for amino acid derivative, characterized in that, a solution of amino acid derivative is added to the fiber structure mentioned in claim 17 in which amount of the amino acid derivative bonded thereto has lowered as a result of use and then the polymer or the fiber structure is dried.